

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 STR-04 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /094 R

DRAFTED BY COM/OIM/DLABRIE/AI
APPROVED BY EA/PHL/JSARTORIUS
COM/OIM/RSKELLY/CMM/ESA
COM/BIEPR/OTP/RBENSON/KSTAUFFER
COM/BIC/OIM/HSTRINGER (INFO)
COM/BIC/OIM/JDOYLE/AD/EM
STATE/EB/OT/GCP/SAHMAD
EA/PHL/JSARTORIUS
AID/ASIA/DMRYBUK
STR/BSTEINBOCK/SLANDY
-----142030Z 028337 /53
P 141940Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL CEBU PRIORITY
USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: BAN ON EXPORTS OF RATTAN POLES FROM THE PHILIPPINES

REF: (A) MANILA 3309 (B) MANILA 2740 (C) MANILA 2713
(D) STATE 37523 --

1. GERALD FICKS, JR., PRESIDENT, FICKS REED COMPANY,
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CINCINNATI, OHIO ARRIVING MANILA MARCH 19 WITH RESERVATION
AT INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTEL. FICKS WOULD APPRECIATE MEETING
WITH EC/COM COUNSELOR MORNING OF MARCH 21 TO DISCUSS RATTAN
EMBARGO AND MARCH 7 LETTER TO SECRETARY OF TRADE QUIAZON
FROM EDWARD MILLER, PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF RATTAN MANUFACTURERS (IARM). MILLER ALSO MAILED COPY
OF LETTER DIRECTLY TO EC/COM COUNSELOR VIA APO. FICKS

PLANS TO DEPART EARLY AFTERNOON OF MARCH 21 FOR CEBU FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SUPPLIERS AND OBTAIN ASSESSMENT AS TO IN-COUNTRY AVAILABILITY OF RATTAN. HE HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT LEIDO HAS ISSUED ONLY SMALL NUMBER OF LICENSES TO RATTAN POLE CUTTERS SINCE DECEMBER 1, 1976. FICKS PLANS TO RETURN MANILA MARCH 23 FOR MEETING WITH QUIAZON ON MARCH 24 AS REQUESTED LETTER OF MARCH 7, FOR DISCUSSION OF POSITIONS OUTLINED IN LETTER AND AS DECIDED UPON WITH EC/COM COUNSELOR. HE WILL DEPART FOR U.S. MARCH 25.

2. AS REQUESTED REF A, TSUSA 2221040, RATTAN, CUMULATIVE IMPORTS FOR 1976 TOTALLED 2,338,251 DOLLARS, QUANTITY NOT RECORDED. FOLLOWING COUNTRIES SUPPLIED RATTAN POLES TO U.S. (INCLUDING PUERTO RICO) IN 1976:

COUNTRY	VALUE
HONG KONG	885,469 DOLLARS
PHILIPPINES	843,455 DOLLARS
SINGAPORE	316,223 DOLLARS
INDONESIA	243,019 DOLLARS
MALAYSIA	66,603 DOLLARS
JAPAN	18,742 DOLLARS
MEXICO	8,129 DOLLARS
ITALY	4,555 DOLLARS
FRANCE	1,312 DOLLARS
TAIWAN	472 DOLLARS
THAILAND	272 DOLLARS

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3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED REF A - MAJOR U.S. IMPORTERS HAVE CONTRACTS FOR WHICH LETTERS OF CREDIT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY PHILIPPINE CENTRAL BANK (CB) IN AMOUNT OF DOLLARS 2 MILLION FOR 1,200,000 RATTAN POLES THAT WILL BE AFFECTED BY RATTAN EMBARGO. PUERTO RICO HAS FOURTEEN CONTRACTS TOTALING 700,000 DOLLARS FOR WHICH CB HAS ISSUED LETTERS OF CREDIT, AND 300,000 DOLLARS OF ORDERS FOR RATTAN POLES IN PROCESS.

4. DATA ON RATTAN FURNITURE INDUSTRY IN UNITED STATES REQUESTED REF A FOLLOWS:

FIRMS-----EMPLOYEES

UNITED STATES-13	UNITED STATES -	2,500
PUERTO RICO - 8	PUERTO RICO ----	400
TOTAL ----- 21	TOTAL-----	2,900

MR. HECTOR JIMENEZ JUARBE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT,

PUERTO RICO MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, AVE. PONCE DE LEON
420, HATO REY, PUERTO RICO, HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH
COMMERCE (OIM/EA), BY LETTER (POUCHED EMBASSY MARCH 9)
AND TELEPHONE. JUARBE EXPLAINED THAT PHILIPPINES IS
TRADITIONAL SUPPLIER OF RATTAN POLES AND SHIPPING
COSTS FROM SOURCES

SUCH AS INDONESIA ARE PROHIBITIVELY HIGH. FURTHER, POINTED
OUT THAT PHILIPPINE RATTAN IS SUITABLE FOR CLIMATE OF
PUERTO RICO AND CAN BE PROCESSED EASIER THAN OTHER RATTAN.
JUARBE EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE LOSS OF 400
JOBS IN VIEW OF PREVAILING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN PUERTO

RICO. HE ASKED FOR USG AID TO "CURTAIL PHILIPPINEBAN FOR
GOOD OF RATTAN FURNITURE INDUSTRY IN PUERTO RICO AND
JOBS THAT WOULD BE LOST". WASHINGTON OFFICIALS OF COMMON-
WEALTH OF PUERTO RICO OFFICE HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED GRAVE
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CONCERN OVER EMBARGO AND OUTLINED SEVERE ECONOMIC IMPACT
OF JOB LOSS ON PUERTO RICO INDUSTRIAL SECTOR AND ECONOMY
TO REPRESENTATIVES OF OIM/EA.

5. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAKE SUPPLY OF RATTAN FROM
PHILIPPINES NECESSARY TO US FURNITURE INDUSTRY OUTLINED
IN MARCH 7 LETTER TO QUIAZON AND WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY
FICKS DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH EC/COM COUNSELOR MARCH
21.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: USDOC/STATE REQUESTS EC/COM
COUNSELOR TO MEET WITH FICKS MORNING OF MARCH 21 AND
ASSIST AS REQUIRED, AND TO ACCOMPANY FICKS DURING MEETING
MARCH 24 WITH QUIAZON TO HIGHLIGHT USG SUPPORT AND PRO-
VIDEREQUESTED INFORMATION. IF FROM MEETING WITH QUIAZON
IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT EMBARGO WILL BE RECINDED WE WILL
CONSIDER ESCALATING LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION ON THIS ISSUE,
SUBJECT TO YOUR VIEWS. IN ADDITION TO INTENSE DIRECT
CONCERN SHOWN BY DOMESTIC FURNITURE INDUSTRY (INCLUDING
PUERTO RICO), OFFICES OF FIVE SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN
HAVE CALLED COMMERCE INQUIRING ABOUT PROPOSED USG ACTION
ON BEHALF OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: BUSINESSMEN, MEETING AGENDA, VISITS, EXPORT CONTROLS, NATURAL FIBERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, BTRA, RP, FICKS REED CO, (FICKS, GERALD JR)
To: MANILA
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